

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

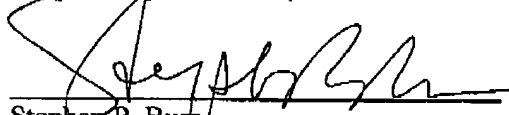
Claims 2-7, 9-16 and 18-21 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9-16 and 18-21 are allowed. Claims 9 and 16 have been amended to be the same as amended claims 9 and 16 submitted in the September 10, 2003 Amendment (since the Advisory Action did not indicate that the prior Amendment had been entered). The entirety of the remarks from the September 10, 2003 Amendment are incorporated herein.

Claim 1 was rejected under §102(b) over each of Otani and Asano. Applicants appreciate the PTO's indication in the Advisory Action that claims 2-7 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Although Applicants do not acquiesce to the art-based rejections of claim 1, that claim has been cancelled and claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form. Consequently, this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, all claims pending herein are now in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Stephen P. Burr  
Reg. No. 32,970

October 14, 2003  
Date

SPB:SWC:jms

BURR & BROWN  
P.O. Box 7068  
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068

Customer No.: 025191  
Telephone: (315) 233-8300  
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320

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